



US Army Corps
of Engineers™

Vol. 29 Issue 11
November 2008
www.hnd.usace.army.mil

Huntsville Center

Bulletin



On page

2 *Commander's
Column*

5 *Facilities
Reduction
team removes
structures*

6 *Bayji Depot
Control
transitions
to Iraqi Army*

10 *CFC activities*

*Mark your
calendar now...*

**Combined
Federal
Campaign**

Oct. 6 - Dec. 12

**Bake Sale
Nov. 3**

**Chili Cookoff/
Bingo
Nov. 18**



Electronic library offers professional resources to Corps employees

**By Jenny Stripling
Public Affairs Office**

An electronic library for professional research materials saved the Corps of Engineers \$339,000 in fiscal year 2008 while making access much easier.

The good news for U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, employees is that this electronic library is available to them online at <https://hncws-intra.hnd.usace.army.mil/ElectLib.htm>.

The USACE library program and the USACE electronic library gathered more than 3,600 online journals and reference materials to bring to the desktops of Corps employees, giving them access to

knowledge resources that create a standardization and consistency within the Corps.

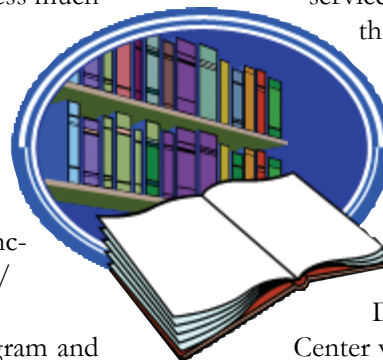
The Huntsville Center not having a librarian led to an agreement with Nashville District officials to use their librarian

services, which may not always be the most convenient way to dig up much-needed information on certain topics.

Todd DuVernay, chief of Specifications and Services Branch, was contacted by Robert Romic, librarian for the Corps' Rock Island

District, asking if the Huntsville Center would be interested in being set up with this electronic library.

"Robert sent me a listing of the library,"



See *Electronic library* on page 8

Credit card switch to Citi Nov. 29

The Department of Defense's current Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) contract with Bank of America is ending this year. As the Travel Card Program transitions to the new SmartPay® 2 contract, all government travel cardholders should have received new cards during August or September.

The new GTCCs will be issued by Citi



and ready for use Nov. 30, after the current Bank of America GTCCs expire Nov. 29, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

See *New travel card* on page 8

Commander's thoughts

I hope you all remembered to set your clocks back an hour on Nov. 2. While it's officially been fall since Sept. 21, it seems to be more "official" when Daylight Saving Time ends.

I also hope everyone will vote Nov. 4. It's an important privilege we have; I encourage everyone to vote for their candidate of choice.

November starts off as a busy month personnel-wise. I want to thank everyone for getting their self-assessments and annual appraisals finished in October. Now it's on to the pay pool portion. Final ratings and share distributions will be determined this month, but actual payouts will not take place until January.

November is National American Indian Heritage Month. Since 1990, November has been set aside as a time to learn more about the history and heritage of Native American peoples. November culminates with Thanksgiving on Nov. 27 and many remember that day as the day in 1621 when the English settlers and the Native Americans met and shared a

meal to celebrate a bountiful harvest. Thanksgiving also is considered the start of the holiday season, which continues through Jan. 1.

The Marine Corps celebrates its 233rd birthday Nov. 10. The Marine Corps was established during the Revolutionary War to protect the sea and coastline from attack. We remember all veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Veterans Day acknowledges the unofficial end of World War I. Although the treaty officially ending the war wasn't signed until June 28, 1919, fighting ceased seven months earlier — on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

The Combined Federal Campaign continues through mid-December. As of Oct. 27, we had raised \$20,067.14 toward our goal of \$75,000. Events in

October such as the bake sale, jail, golf tournament, and 5K run and 2.2 mile walk helped raise money for the cause.

Another bake sale will be conducted Nov. 3 and the chili cookoff and bingo will be Nov. 18. If you have not received your pledge card and catalog of participating charities, please see your section keyworker or Yazmine Gerousis in Resource Management.

I know as we enter

into this holiday season that I am thankful for you — the employees of Huntsville Center. Your efforts on behalf of the Corps and the nation are the best and are greatly appreciated. We need all of you, so as you plan your family and friends get-togethers over the next couple of months, keep safety in mind. Don't drink and drive. Don't drive fatigued. Just relax and enjoy the time with your family and friends during this special season of thanksgiving.



Col. Larry D. McCallister

Hails and farewells

Welcome to new employees — Jeffrey Blackmon, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Charita Hinton**, Information Management Directorate; **Anthony Kirby**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Blue Grass Resident Office; **Robert Kujda**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center; **Anita Norton**, Resource Management; **Morgan Ruther**, Engineering Directorate; **Salome Taggart**, Engineering Directorate; **Pamela Scott**, ACE-IT; **Jane Ellen Simons**, ACE-IT; and **Pamela Smith**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Blue Grass Resident Office.

Farewell to April Rafael-Adams, Engineering Directorate (deploying); **Thomas Artioli**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Pueblo Resident Office; **Louise Hicks**, USACE Learning Center; **Lisa Lockett**, Contracting Directorate; **Bruce Railey**, Engineering Directorate (deploying); **Douglas Rhodes**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Greg Vaughn**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate (deploying); **Amy Venable**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Paula White**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; and **Anne Williams**, Engineering Directorate.



US Army Corps
of Engineers

The Huntsville Center Bulletin is printed by digital copier as an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army. Inquiries can be addressed to Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Attn: CEHNC-PA, P.O. Box 1600, Huntsville, AL 35807-4301. Phone: DSN 760-1693 or commercial 256-895-1693. The Bulletin is also online at www.hnd.usace.army.mil. Circulation: 1,000.

BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. Larry D. McCallister
Chief, Public Affairs..... Debra Valine
Editor..... Becky Proaps

The Bulletin asks:

What are your hopes for this country?



Jerial Henderson
Installation Support and
Programs Management
Directorate

It is my hope that our country doesn't plunge into a recession that could cause every man, woman and child in America to suffer. This is the most prosperous nation on earth and has been for more than 200 years. The American people should not allow any country to cause our freedom, our way of life or our economy to be shaken. It is my hope that every person would be responsible; do something for this country and not be content with reaping the prosperity. If we all work together, I guarantee even the price of fuel will go down. Thanks for listening.

**I hope for resolution to bring
all our troops home.**



Jennifer Phillips
Bob's Vending



Patricia James
Small Business
Office

My hope for this country is that we stay focused on what is important but also remember our fellow man. Show a bit of compassion. By reminding your fellow man that no matter what they believe in or what God they pray to, there still needs to be sincere human communication. The human interaction has left humanity. We don't say hello in elevators or in line at the store. We ignore the homeless person on the off-ramp to the point where we won't even look at him and the Soldier who is protecting this land. On Nov. 4 the election will happen but we must remember to be considerate of our fellow man.

**My hope is that we (Americans) will be able
to turn our economy around, and get this
country back on track. It's vital that we do.**



Freddie Shepherd
Installation Support
and Programs
Management
Directorate



Bob Thierry
Security Consultant
Group

**My hope is that the same values of the men and
women of the World War II era would return and that
the people of the U.S. could and would sacrifice a
little of themselves for the good of all.**

Flu shots arrive for community

Fox Army Health Center has received a partial shipment of flu vaccine for the 2008-2009 flu season.

Beneficiaries may receive flu shots at Fox Army Health Center in Primary Care Clinic 2 as follows:

Active duty family members and military

retirees and their family members are scheduled Nov. 1 and 15 from 8 a.m. to noon, and Nov. 6 and 20 from 1-4 p.m. After Dec. 1, flu shots will be given to this group on a walk-in basis in Primary Care Clinic 2.

Current DoD Civilians may get their flu shots Nov. 6 and 20 from 1-4 p.m.

After Dec. 1, flu shots will be given to DoD Civilians on a walk-in basis in the Occupational Health Clinic.

By regulation, retired DoD Civilians and their family members and contractors are not eligible to receive the flu shot from Fox, unless you also fit into one of the beneficiary

categories.

At this time no dates have been set for shots to be given at Huntsville Center.

For more information, call Preventive Medicine at 955-8888, ext. 1026.

(This information is from a Fox Army Health Center news release printed in the Redstone Rocket.)

Honoring all who served on Veterans Day

**By Jenny Stripling
Public Affairs Office**

Every year, Americans observe a moment of silence Nov. 11, remembering those who fought for peace, and to celebrate America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

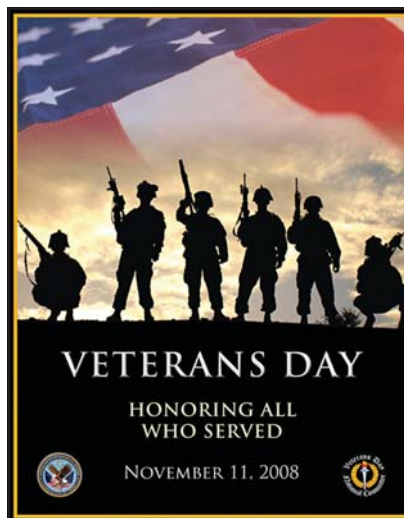
The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, employs 113 veterans from all branches of service, who continue to serve the American public as Civilians.

Nov. 11, Veterans Day, is not just another federal holiday. The date holds emotional significance for more than 25 million living American veterans. These men and women served the U.S. through peace and war so that Americans can enjoy the freedoms many take for granted.

The Treaty of Versailles, which officially ended "The Great War," was signed June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. The fighting, however, ceased seven months earlier when the armistice between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day in the 11th month. For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of the war.

In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations ..."

The Uniforms Holiday Bill was signed on June 28, 1968, and ensured three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities, and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production.



Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the Veterans Day holiday on its original date.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on Oct. 25, 1971. It was apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and

patriotic significance to many people. On Sept. 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the observance of Veterans Day to its original date of Nov. 11, beginning in 1978.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on Nov. 11. Restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to Nov. 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day.

For more information about Veterans Day, go to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Web site at <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>.

Facilities Reduction team removes unwanted structures, helps community and environment

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Each year buildings are added to and removed from government property books. Buildings are added by new construction or conversion of existing buildings, and others are removed by demolition or conversion from commercial to noncommercial activity.

Many of these structures are removed by conventional methods that involve the exchange of money for service rendered, and others are removed with a more cost-effective, non-conventional method like the one used by Installation Support's Facilities Reduction team to remove two metal buildings in a pasture near Denton, Texas — they just gave them away.

It all began with a phone call. Representatives from Installation Management Command (IMCOM) and Red River Army Depot contacted Thad Stripling, program manager for Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program, requesting the removal of two buildings, measuring 1,100 and 1,250 square feet respectively, located 10 miles from Denton, Texas, near the Corps' Lewisville Lake dam.

Red River owned the buildings and wanted to remove all excess property from their books, but couldn't get the money to do so. The buildings had not been used for more than 30 years, and were formerly used as automated communication equipment buildings for civil defense storage, and more recently to store other equipment.

Stripling said the phone call didn't come as a surprise, since the FRP team is responsible for handling such "odd" requests for removal of structures from customers in locations around the globe.

"Our doing this work is a well-kept



Courtesy photo

Red River Army Depot owned two metal buildings that sat on an isolated 50-acre pasture surrounded by a 10-foot tall barbed-wire fence for more than 30 years.

secret," Stripling said. "Although it seems small scale, these type projects have a significant impact on our client's satisfaction."

Stripling and his team worked closely with Oly Thorson, IMCOM regional manager and Red River officials to meet the requirements. Early on, they came up with a unique idea to get rid of the buildings — donate them to a local charity, and make a positive impact on the environment.

It was decided that the benefactor would be chosen from a list of approved charities that were a part of the Combined Federal Campaign. The team made a decision to give the buildings to the Habitat for Humanity of Denton County's Habitat ReStore Discount Home Improvement Center.

The organization's ReStore sells quality new and previously owned goods at discounted prices. Most items in the store are donated by local individuals and companies. Proceeds from the ReStore go to Habitat for Humanity of Denton County to build more affordable homes for families in

the community.

"Our community benefits because materials are recycled instead of dumped into the local landfill and our resources are reserved. Our methods for deconstruction can only help the environment," said Diana Garrison, ReStore manager. "Donations help support Habitat for Humanity's objectives of building safe, affordable, energy efficient houses with low-income families and the revitalization of neighborhoods."

It was important that the methods used for removal of the buildings were environmentally friendly. The IMA Sustainability policy requires that facility removal be accomplished in such a fashion as to reduce the negative impact on the environment. Stripling said removing the structures, with little impact on the environment, was tricky.

"There were several charities that we looked at as possible recipients. However, we chose this charity because of their guaranteed 100 percent re-use of the materials," Stripling said. "The

See *Unwanted structures* on page 9

Bayji Depot control transitions to Iraqi Army

**By Michelle Harlan
Ordnance and Explosives
Directorate**

When the U.S. Army handed over full control of the depot to the Iraqi Army in a ceremony Sept. 29, Bayji National Ammunition Depot became the location of an historic milestone for military operations in Iraq.

The Bayji Depot (formerly Arlington Depot), located 135 miles north of Baghdad, is responsible for safely storing and re-purposing captured ammunition in Iraq.

The Huntsville Center Coalitions Munitions Clearance program has been active in the Global War on Terror mission since Aug. 23, 2003, when they first occupied six Ammunition Supply Points throughout Iraq. They have been responsible for destroying more than 670 million pounds of captured enemy ammunition. Over time, smaller ASPs have been closed and the remaining ammunition was either destroyed or transferred to the remaining ASPs, including the largest location at Bayji.

Iraqi forces now have total control of operations at Bayji depot and have assigned 700 to 800 Iraqis. The Multi-National Security Transition Command Iraq along with Parsons, Environmental Chemical Corporation and sub-contractors working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are also on site. Kirk Baumann, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project manager, oversees operations at Bayji; the contractors are on site to provide oversight and guidance when needed to the Iraqi Army until July 31, 2009.

"We are here to document observations of the IA ammunition



Photo by Tom Patterson, Environmental Chemical Corporation

Soldiers in the Iraqi Army celebrate after the U.S. Army handed over control of the Bayji National Ammunition depot to them during a ceremony Sept. 29.

program, give guidance to the IA when required and to report back to MNSTC-I," Baumann said.

Brenda Hatley, Huntsville Center project manager for CMC, said the goal over the next eight months is to help the Iraqis become self-sufficient in operating and maintaining the depot. The IA spent four weeks transitioning prior to the turnover. The four-week transition was twofold. Force protection was handed over to the IA after training on entry control point and guard tower operations. Initial training on weapons qualification and ECP operations was conducted at Besmaya combat training center during the BNAD's unit set fielding in August. Depot specific standard operating procedures were done on site in September. The IA is learning how to maintain the depot and continues to get daily guidance on

material handling equipment, wearing Personal Protective Equipment, storage considerations, and banding and moving pallets of ammunition.

A top priority for the IA is to secure ammunition inside its warehouses that are currently staged in open storage revetments exposed to the elements. Also, there is an ongoing effort of planning for depot improvements, such as repairing the electrical power grid for lighting and a water pipeline from Bayji.

Baumann believes the transfer has been successful and will continue to be so as long as the depot continues to receive timely support from the Minister of Defense for logistics, security is maintained and the IA soldiers stay motivated.

"Bottom line, the depot is still in its

Continued on next page



Photo by Tom Patterson, Environmental Chemical Corporation

Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, deputy commanding general, Coalition Army Advisory Training Team of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, hands over the symbolic key of the Bayji National Ammunition Depot to Iraqi Army officials during the hand-over ceremony Sept. 29.



Photo by Tom Patterson, Environmental Chemical Corporation

Members of the Iraqi Army prepare for the Sept. 29 ceremony handing over the Bayji National Ammunition Depot from the U.S. Army to the Iraqi Army.

infancy. Improvements are noticed daily. This is a large depot with a lot of potential. It has a long way to go, but progress is being made," Baumann said. "The Iraqis convey daily that they are comfortable with their American friends and glad that we're here helping and providing oversight. They feel safe at the depot and have a sense of accomplishment and pride in ownership."



Photo by Tom Patterson, Environmental Chemical Corporation

Maj. Ali Hussin Ali, with the Bayji National Ammunition Depot Security Force, speaks during the hand-over ceremony Sept. 29.



Photo by Tom Patterson, Environmental Chemical Corporation

Iraqi soldiers celebrate at the hand-over ceremony of the Bayji National Ammunition Depot to the Iraqi Army Sept. 29.

Electronic library

continued from page 1

DuVernay said. "The electronic library benefits environmental, civil and geotechs, but with all the information available it will benefit the technical researcher, helping one to become familiar with the different products. The Web and search engines are nice for general information, but research articles will provide many more robust links in someone's area of study.

"Most all of the districts and divisions pay into this. As of the present time, Buffalo and Louisville districts are the only ones who say they are not using the database," DuVernay said. "There are some districts reviewing it. The biggest issue is no

one knows about it, and we have many people who would use it extensively. For them it would be invaluable."

According to DuVernay, not everyone gets down in the technical weeds, but even if research is needed for more uncommon topics, these journal articles can provide full text, graphs and photographs required for research of timely and in-depth information in science, engineering and other professions required for scientific study.

A huge benefit of having access to the electronic library is the cost to use it. The material contained in the USACE Electronic Library, if purchased alone by a district, would total more than \$250,000. The \$12,000 investment, for a participating district with 1,000 employees, will cost

less than six cents a day per employee, while providing required resources to Corps locations with minimum or no library services.

"The USACE Electronic Library has grown from five districts in 2006 to 35 districts this year," Romic said. "This year, 35 districts are contributing \$12,000 each for desktop access to all 2,600 full text journals and 1,000 reference manuals."

To determine how often the library database is accessed, and to see which articles are used most frequently, journals and documents are monitored by a vendor that provides usage statistics when a document or journal is downloaded, saved or viewed.

"By looking at the documents that have been saved or viewed, we have

been able to determine that usage for the first six months of fiscal year 2008 has surpassed all of fiscal year 2007," Romic said. "USACE employees downloaded almost \$699,000 worth of material, repaying the initial investment of \$330,000 and creating a savings of \$339,000."

While the library offers a vast array of information, new documents are being added all the time. If there is specific information or journals you are looking for that are not included in the database, please contact Todd DuVernay or Robert Romic.

"The whole purpose of this is to gain benefit for the Corps' technical mission," DuVernay said.

New travel card

continued from page 1

The new travel card was mailed to the cardholder's mailing address on file with Bank of America. Personal identification numbers for the new Citibank cards will arrive on or around Nov. 1.

Citibank will offer some of the same features Bank of America cardholders are accustomed to, including an online payment option. Cardholders who have a balance on their Bank of America account will have to pay the full amount by Nov. 29. Any refunds also should be requested ahead of that date.

Important Note: If you have not verified receipt of the new travel card you will not be able to use it Nov. 30. Also do not dispose of either the current GTCC or the new card issued by Citi®, because the current cards do not expire until Nov. 29, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Traveling during the cutover

If you will be traveling during the cutover (Nov. 29-30), you should charge all official travel expenses up to, and including, Nov. 29, on your current Bank of America GTCC. Travel expenses incurred from **12 a.m. EST**

on Nov. 30, should be charged to the new GTCC.

Links for more information

Your primary contacts for transition information are Angela Rackard and Yazmine Gerousis. Cardholders can also visit www.defensetravel.dod.mil; www.gsa.gov/smartpay for more information.; or send questions to dtmotc@dtmo.pentagon.mil

(This information provided by The Department of Defense Travel Management Office.)

Huntsville Center Activities Association back in action

The Huntsville Center Activities Association was officially reactivated at a meeting Oct. 3. The 2008/2009 officers will serve a one-year term that ends Oct. 3, 2009. The officers are Sharon Howard, left, president, Resource Management Directorate; Cindy Halbrooks, treasurer, Resource Management Directorate; LeeAnne Carter, vice-president, Resource Management Directorate; Jo Anita Miley, executive officer, Public Affairs Office; and Nikki Zarger, secretary, Engineering Directorate.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Unwanted structures

continued from page 5

charity had to make sure the buildings were removed, and the site was cleaned up by our deadline of Sept. 30. This deadline wasn't negotiable."

After accepting the donation, Habitat for Humanity called its donors and participants to offer them an opportunity to buy the property — the highest bid submitted won. Dick Downing, a local rancher was the highest bidder.

"Downing was asked to clear the two buildings and remove all debris by the end of the fiscal year. Downing did an excellent job of deconstructing the buildings, and left the lot clean and clear with only two concrete slabs," Stripling said. "We'll have contractors remove the slabs as part of the Fort Bliss facility reduction project in FY09."

Stripling said it was a win for everyone. The organization was allowed to keep the money, the materials were completely reused according to current environmental standards, and the requirement was met at no cost to the government.

"Taking a non-conventional approach saved the government lots of money. FRP estimated the cost using conventional methods would be more than \$16,000 — the government

would have paid a contractor \$11,000, plus an additional \$5,000 to administer the contract," Stripling said. "Instead, we gave the buildings away — and met our requirement."

The FRP team has been consistent with trying out this new process, and this method has been a great success to date. Stripling said this is just another way to foster good will toward others, and save money and the environment. In the past, FRP has

done a similar project at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. to remove seven unneeded structures for its real property inventory at no cost to the installation.

"This project was a triple win. The organization was allowed to keep the money, the materials were completely reused according to current environmental standards, and the customer's requirement was met at no cost to the government," he said.



Courtesy photo

All that remains are two concrete slabs after Dick Downing, a rancher living near Denton, Texas, removed the old metal buildings.



Upcoming Combined Federal Campaign Events



Bake Sale Nov. 3

Bring goodies to sell

*Bring money to buy
goodies*



Chili Cookoff/Bingo Nov. 18

Enter your favorite recipe!!

Three Categories of chili:
Most Unusual
Spiciest
Overall Favorite

Contact Gail Overman to
register or for more
information.

If you or your office can donate a
basket filled with goodies to be given
away as a Bingo prize, please contact
Gail Overman or Yazmine Gerousis.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Susan Turley, left, Office of Counsel, reads Neal Graham his arrest warrant during the CFC Jail Oct. 15. The jail raised \$620 for CFC this year.

From left to right, front row, Adam Sunstrom, Margaret Simmons, Steve Feldman, and back row, Robert Mackey, Jeff Ball and Wade Doss participated in the first Huntsville Center Golf Tournament Oct. 23, which was organized by Sunstrom for CFC. Ten teams comprised of Center employees and others from Redstone Arsenal and the community raised more than \$600 for this year's campaign. Todd Watts, not pictured, also participated.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Benny Pitsinger, aka, Gentle Ben and his trained guitar, performed during the kickoff celebration of this year's Combined Federal Campaign.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Corps of Engineers helps guide Iraq infrastructure progress

**By LuAnne Fantasia
Special to American Forces
Press Service**

KIRKUK, Iraq — Engineers with the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are teaching and mentoring their Iraqi counterparts on every aspect of reconstruction project development, preparing them to continue building and managing Iraq's infrastructure after the coalition leaves.

Army Lt. Col. Jack Hourguettes is an Army engineer assigned to the Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team — a joint effort to integrate infrastructure projects in the province, training, coaching, advising, increasing engineering expertise and improving decision-making while balancing political and engineering requirements.

"We've been in Iraq five years and have had PRTs for three years," Hourguettes said. "We (the U.S.) are still cleaning up from Katrina after three years. Our efforts in Iraq will not be an overnight success. It will take the Iraqi people maintaining and pursuing from this generation to their grandchildren's generation, but the rewards will be so much better than if we had just walked away."

PRT engineers are teachers and diplomats, simultaneously ensuring their Provincial Reconstruction Development Council is capable of performing engineering assessments, designing scopes of work and conducting quality assurance and quality control, accomplishing construction processes and managing projects.

Hourguettes splits his time equally between the Kirkuk Government Building downtown and in remote villages. He works with the deputy governor of the Kirkuk province, as well as the deputy generals for water,

sewer, roads and bridges, and electricity. Other Kirkuk PRT members work with the deputy generals for rule of law, education and others, he explained.

"The deputy generals are appreciative, well-educated people who are experts in their field of work," he said. "They have a great ability to visualize and conceptualize projects, and I have the greatest confidence in the world in them."

Today, the city of Kirkuk looks and plans ahead 20 years.

Funds from the Iraq central government have been secured for the first phase of the 32-kilometer Kirkuk

Southern Bypass Road that will allow the city to expand for residents and businesses. A sewer master plan will replace existing septic tanks with a modern sewer and rain water system.

The final or working design is funded by the central government, which Hourguettes said, "is a major milestone for them to take ownership."

Both of these infrastructure upgrades are included in a four-volume, 20-year master plan for the city of Kirkuk, commissioned to a private American contractor and funded with Economic Support Funds.

"The 20-year master plan reflects where the city of Kirkuk started and where it is today with a breakdown of its infrastructure," Hourguettes explained. "The plan identifies how property can be used more efficiently and outlines where the city can grow geographically and the best areas for

industry and business. It's not a directive, but a map to how Kirkuk can attract business and grow accordingly."

When coalition forces first arrived in Iraq, they brought with them the funds and the ability to hire experts to design key reconstruction projects. "Now we're finishing the design work and turning it over to the provincial governments," said Hourguettes. "It's incumbent on them to secure funding to actually build these projects. It's the

same as a state in the U. S. securing federal funding for an infrastructure improvement."

Hourguettes' biggest enjoyment here is getting

"We're trying to bring a better infrastructure, stability and unified peace to Iraq's children and grandchildren."

**— Lt. Col. Jack Hourguettes
Army engineer
Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team**

out in the remote villages and talking to the village elders. "We try to assess realistic needs of the village and put together realistic project proposals, submit them to the PRDC and follow through to funding by the Iraq central government in Baghdad," he said. "We're here such a short time (10 – 12 months) that we may get to see only a few projects to the end."

"I guess the tagline to us being here in Iraq," Hourguettes said, "is that we're trying to bring a better infrastructure, stability and unified peace to Iraq's children and grandchildren."

For more information about the Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit the Gulf Region District Web site at www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.asp

(LuAnne Fantasia is assigned to the Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region North District.)

Ethics Corner

Movie lines, ethics: what's the connection?

**By Susan Turley
Office of Counsel**

"Round up the usual suspects."

This quote from *Casablanca* is Number 32 on the American Film Institute's list of 100 greatest "Movie Quotes."

In keeping with the Huntsville Center Ethics Training for this year, other quotes from the list will introduce the article's various topics.

Each year, the Department of Defense General Counsel compiles an "Encyclopedia of Ethical Failures," featuring federal employees who violated the standards of conduct. Although the names have been withheld to protect the guilty, the cases are real.

Violations of many ethical standards involve *criminal* statutes. Equally important, they erode the public's trust in our ability and willingness to do our jobs fairly and impartially. A number of the offenders could have avoided the violations if they had talked to their ethics counselor first.

The entire encyclopedia is posted on the Office of Counsel Web page, <https://hnc-ws-intra.hnd.usace.army.mil/oc/index.asp>.

**"Wait a minute, wait a minute—
you ain't heard nothin' yet."
The Jazz Singer, #71**

Even after the election ends, the political chatter will probably continue, so consider two employees who violated the Hatch Act by sending partisan e-mails to coworkers. An Environmental Protection Agency employee sent an e-mail to 15 coworkers containing a widely circulated photograph and several negative statements about one candidate, and an Air Force worker sent an e-mail while on official duty to 70 recipients that contained a mock résumé of a candidate.

The Hatch Act prohibits federal employees from engaging in political activity while on duty, in a government owned or leased building, while in uniform (for military) or in a government vehicle. The Hatch Act does *not* prohibit "water cooler" discussions among coworkers about current events, even over e-mail. Federal employees may use e-mail as a medium for casual conversation, but they go too far when they disseminate their messages to a mass audience.

The Office of Special Counsel considers the following when deciding if an e-mail violates the Hatch Act: the audience and number of people who received it, the sender's relationship to the recipient(s), whether the message was intended to encourage the recipient

to support a particular political party or candidate, whether the message was sent in a federal building, and whether the employee was on duty.

**"Keep your friends close, but
your enemies closer."
The Godfather II, #58**

If you would like to moonlight for a contractor, please consult with your ethics counselor first — or you may find yourself out of *both* jobs, like the next employee.

A contract manager at a Tennessee Valley Authority power plant in Kentucky was fired after investigators learned that he had been working off-duty for the same contractor he was overseeing. As part of his responsibilities with TVA, the contract manager reviewed contractor bids and oversaw contract performance. The manager accepted a job with one of TVA's contractors as a part-time supervisor and worked for the contractor in Oklahoma and Indiana on his days off and vacation days.

He was also convicted of violating the criminal statute prohibiting personnel from participating in official actions (such as reviewing contractor bids) that affect their employer, even if they work for that employer only part time.

(Stay tuned for more movie quotes next month.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER, HUNTSVILLE
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35807-4301

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED